

1. SCHEDULE

- **Opening** of the call on the F.R.S.-FNRS Web-based application [SEMAPHORE](#) for the online submission: **THURSDAY 11 JANUARY 2018**
- **Deadline to access an electronic form:** **WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 2 PM¹**
- **Deadlines for the electronic validations** are detailed in the table below.

PERSON CONCERNED	VALIDATION DEADLINES IN 2018 AT 2:00 PM
Main promoter	Thursday 15 th February
Promoter/co-promoter	Tuesday 20 th February
Rector	Tuesday 27 th February

The decision to allocate funding will be made by the Board of Trustees of the Fund for Scientific Research-FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS) in June 2018. GEQ projects will start on 1st October 2018.

2. GEQ INSTRUMENT CHARACTERISTICS

Instrument	Duration	Characteristics	Co-promoter participation
GEQ	2 years	Single or Cross-university GEQ	Yes

A GEQ application enables to apply for funding for the purchase of equipment or an experimental device.

The budget requested shall be **over €200,000 -, and equal to or lower than €500,000 -**. In case where additional funding is needed, the budget requested must represent at least 60% of the remaining equipment cost to be covered.

The F.R.S.-FNRS will cover from 60% to 100% of the budget requested for the equipment in accordance with the decision of the Board of Trustees and within the limits of its budget.

The technical and dedicated facilities strictly necessary for the installation of the equipment are not included in the cost thereof, and cannot be considered as a contribution from the co-financing university of the promoter.

3. PROMOTERS

- By the validation deadline fixed for the academic authorities (rectors), the main promoter-applicant of a GEQ must be:
 - Either a Research Associate, a Senior Research Associate or a Research Director of the F.R.S.-FNRS and assuming the function and duties of such position.

¹ All times are Brussels local time.

- Or a researcher permanently appointed or on probation, but holding a position equivalent to a permanent appointment in a university of the French-speaking community of Belgium.

If the main promoter-applicant who is appointed permanently and accesses pension / becomes professor emeritus after the validation deadline fixed for the academic authorities (rectors) and before the end of the funding scheme in case of granting, the submission of the application shall be subject to the prior approval of the Head of institution where the research will be carried out.

The main promoter-applicant permanently appointed who will access pension / become professor emeritus by the validation deadline fixed for the academic authorities (rectors) is not eligible.

- All co-promoter applicants involved in a Single or a Cross-university GEQ shall meet the same eligibility criteria as for the main promoter.
- F.R.S.-FNRS cumulative funding (PDR, EQP, MIS...) is allowed alongside.

4. CONTENT OF A PROPOSAL

Applicants will have the choice to write their proposal either in French or in English. For some fields, using English can broaden the number of experts likely to take part in the evaluations.

The F.R.S.-FNRS insists on **strict compliance of the number of pages** allowed for documents that shall be enclosed with the application form and stresses again the sovereign consideration of the Scientific Commissions in case the file would exceed the applicable page limit.

The application file contains the main sections described in the table below.

PRE-FORM		For F.R.S.-FNRS administration use only in order to make sure that the main promoter and co-promoters do meet the eligibility criteria.
FULL FORM	PART 1: PROJECT ET PROMOTER(S)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application reference 2. Descriptor fields selection 3. Bibliometric indicators, Curriculum Vitae and Publications list² (PDF files) 4. Scientific proposal and ethical aspects³ : scientific section, work plan and main collaborators of the promoters (documents to provide in PDF format – see templates) 5. Promoter(s)' Statement
	PART 2: BUDGET	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requested Budget – equipment costs and tenders 2. Promoter(s)' Statement

² Promoters who have been working for 2 years at least in institutions of the French-speaking Community of Belgium that have set up an institutional repository (IR) must absolutely submit their publications list in a PDF format, directly created from this repository, and choose the appropriate F.R.S.-FNRS format.

³ As from 2018, in order to reduce the Ethics Committees workload and to make the administrative procedures more flexible for applicants, the researchers concerned by ethical questions will be required to submit their questionnaire accompanied by the opinion of the Ethics Committee to the FRS-FNRS only in case of granting. Funding will be subject to a favorable opinion of the Committee (decision of the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS on 4 October 2017).

<p>SCIENTIFIC SECTION AND WORK PLAN</p> <p>PLEASE USE THE TEMPLATE PROVIDED FOR THAT PURPOSE</p>	<p>Scientific Section Template FR - EN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thematic research justifying the request 2. Information about the main promoter (Expert skill, most significant publications, main research achievements, team composition) 3. Information about the co-promoters (Expert skill...) <p>Work Plan Template FR - EN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Institutional work plan 2. Work plan 3. Return on investment
--	---

5. SELECTION PROCEDURE (EX-ANTE EVALUATION)

The Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS has adopted the principle of a **two-step procedure**:

➤ **Step 1: individual evaluations**

Each proposal is evaluated by several remote individual experts, according to an evaluation grid known to the promoters (see "evaluation criteria").

➤ **Step 2: a dedicated Scientific Commission**

Each proposal is assigned to a rapporteur who will prepare an evaluation report project based on the individual evaluations of the first step. The report project will be discussed, amended and validated by the Scientific Commission and then, it will be transferred to the main promoter and co-promoters (if any) after the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS has made a decision.

The fields covered by the individual experts are defined according to [a list of descriptor fields](#). This list includes the ERC's descriptor fields completed with keywords, which reflect the specificities of research in the French-speaking Community of Belgium.

The main promoter will have to choose from 2 to 6 descriptor fields in order of importance and they may complete this selection by adding unrestricted keywords (if necessary). The F.R.S.-FNRS will base the selection of 1st-step experts on those pieces of information along with the summary of the project.

If necessary, applicants may indicate up to 3 experts they do not wish to have as reviewers and provide a justification

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA – EVALUATION REPORT

The promoter is free to read the [evaluation guide](#) intended for experts in order to have a better understanding of the proposal's evaluation.

Criteria that will be taken into account for the evaluation of GEQ applications are the following, by order of importance:

CRITERIA

➤ **Qualities of the promoter(s) and potential equipment users:**

CV and publications,
International recognition
Main research achievements

CRITERIA

➤ Qualities of the research programme(s):

- Feasibility
- Methodology and relevance
- Originality
- Collaborations

➤ Requested equipment features:

- Choice in terms of technicality and performance
- The need, potential double use
- Usage (utilisation rate)
- Capability and Capacity (expertise, infrastructure)
- Correspondence between the tender and the requested equipment

7. OPEN ACCESS POLICY

The Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS has decided to endorse the principle of Open access to publicly funded research. This support has led to the implementation of an institutional mandate providing Open access to publications from F.R.S.-FNRS funded research projects and researchers under the "Open Access Green Road" business model.

This [mandate](#) specifies the conditions under which the F.R.S.-FNRS grant recipients shall store, when possible, all the funded research results of which they are authors or co-authors in their institution's repository.

Reminder to the research community:

Any scientific publication resulting partially or fully from a grant from the F.R.S.-FNRS shall mention the source of the funding as follows: "This work was supported by the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS under Grant(s) n° [funding number]". The same procedure applies to open access publications.

ALL THE DOCUMENTS, GUIDES, RULES AND REGULATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON

<http://www.fnrs.be/index.php/appels-reglements>